



9110-04-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

[Docket No. USCG-2012-0011]

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee:

Intercessional Meeting

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Working Group Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) will conduct an intercessional meeting to facilitate working group discussion of Task Statement 76, entitled "Review of Performance Measures (Assessment Criteria)", and Task Statement 77, entitled "Development of Performance Measures (Assessment Criteria)." This meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: A MERPAC working group will meet on January 31, 2012, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on February 1, 2012, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Please note that the meeting may adjourn early if all business is finished. Written comments to be distributed to working group members and placed on MERPAC's website are due by January 20, 2012.

ADDRESSES: The working group will meet at the STAR Center, 2 West Dixie Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004-4312. For further information about the STAR Center hotel facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance, contact Mr. Graeme Holman at (954) 920-3222.

To facilitate public participation, we are inviting public comment on the issues to be considered by the work group, which are listed in the "Agenda" section below. Written comments must be identified by Docket No. USCG-2012-0011 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments

(preferred method to avoid delays in processing).

- **Fax:** 202-372-1918.

- **Mail:** Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S.

Department of Transportation, West Building Ground

Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.

Washington, D.C. 20590-0001.

- **Hand delivery:** Same as mail address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the words "Department of Homeland Security" and the docket number for this action. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. You may review a Privacy Act notice regarding our public dockets in the January 17, 2008, issue of the Federal Register (73 FR 3316).

Docket: For access to the docket to read documents or comments related to this notice, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

This notice may be viewed in our online docket, USCG-2012-0011, at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rogers Henderson, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of MERPAC, telephone 202-372-1408. If you have any questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Renee V. Wright, Program Manager, Docket Operations, telephone 202-366-9826.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. (Pub. L. 92-463).

MERPAC is an advisory committee authorized under section 871 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Title 6, United States Code, section 451, and chartered under the

provisions of the FACA. The Committee will act solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) through the Commandant of the Coast Guard and the Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards on matters relating to personnel in the U.S. merchant marine, including but not limited to training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards. The Committee will advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary.

Agenda:

DAY 1

The agenda for the January 31, 2012, working group meeting is as follows:

- (1) Review existing performance measures and develop new performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies listed in the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978 as amended;
- (2) Public comment period;
- (3) Discuss and prepare proposed recommendations for the full committee to consider with regards to Task Statement 76, concerning the review of existing performance measures which can be used to assess

mariner competencies listed in the STCW, and Task Statement 77, concerning the development of new performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies in the STCW (these task statements are included as supplemental material to the docket); and

(4) Adjournment of meeting.

DAY 2

The agenda for the February 1, 2012, working group meeting is as follows:

- (1) Continue discussion on proposed recommendations;
- (2) Public comment period;
- (3) Discuss and prepare final recommendations for the full committee to consider with regards to Task Statement 76, concerning the review of existing performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies listed in the STCW, and Task Statement 77, concerning the development of new performance measures which can be used to assess mariner competencies in the STCW (these task statements are included as supplemental material to the docket); and
- (4) Adjournment of meeting.

PROCEDURAL: A copy of all meeting documentation is available at the <https://www.fido.gov> web site or by contacting Rogers Henderson. Once you have accessed the MERPAC Committee page, click on the meetings tab and then the ``View`` button for the meeting dated January 31-February 1, 2012 to access the information for this meeting. Minutes will be available 90 days after this meeting. Both minutes and documents related to this meeting can also be found at an alternative site using the following web address: <https://homeport.uscg.mil> and use these key strokes: Missions; Port and Waterways Safety; Advisory Committees; MERPAC; and then use the event key.

A public oral comment period will be held during the working group meeting. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to 3 minutes. Please note that the public oral comment period may end before the prescribed ending time indicated following the last call for comments. Contact Rogers Henderson as indicated above to register as a speaker.

Dated: January 6, 2012

F. J. Sturm,
Deputy Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards

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